

Stratford-on-Avon Rural District.

Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH .

FOR THE

Rural District of Stratford-on-Avon

FOR

❖ 1919 ❖

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— 1919. —

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
STRATFORD-ON-AVON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present a Report on the District for the year 1919. The Report is detailed on the lines proposed in a Memorandum of the Ministry of Health, and consequently some of its contents may be found to be matter your Council is acquainted with, and for the information of controlling authorities outside the District.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

POPULATION.—Estimated for 1919, 10,917.

The District is situated in the basin of the River Avon which runs from N.E. to S.W. very nearly through its centre. From the eastward a tributary brook, which rises near Kineton, flows through Wellesbourne and Hampton Lucy and enters the Avon at Charlecote. This tributary brook receives the effluent from the sewage-disposal works of Kineton and Wellesbourne; the combined population of these parishes being rather over 2,000.

The river Stour, which enters the Avon near Stratford-upon-Avon drains several of the villages in the South of the District. To the north and west of the Avon much of the district is drained by a small stream, the Alne flowing S.W. towards Alcester; this stream receives the clarified sewage effluent from Henley-in-Arden and Wootton Wawen sewage-disposal works.

From the level of the river Avon, which may be estimated about 120 feet above sea-level, there is considerable rise in undulations of the district, in all directions, except from S. to S.W.

The soil of the District varies from stiff clay to light loam: sand and gravel are found where there is river alluvium, and on the higher land, lias lime-stone is present as subsoil.

The Keuper Sandstone of the Trias is found 600—700 from the surface and has been bored into at Alveston and Moreton Morrell as a water-bearing stratum. Above the sandstone, red marl with occasional bands of sandstone and gypsum extend to near the surface.

Generally speaking, the nature of the soil of the District is one conducive to dampness in old property where there are no

damp courses or floors of flags or brick laid direct on the ground may be present.

The District is entirely agricultural and as a contrast to present conditions, the estimated population in 1891 was 11,484, and in 1911, 11,079, a total decrease of 405 in twenty years.

POOR LAW RELIEF.

The amounts expended in poor law relief for the year ending March 1919, in the Stratford-on-Avon Unions was:—

OUTRELIEF £1376 os. od.

INRELIEF £2542 os. od.

From this a deduction is necessary of £401 leaving a balance of £3517 distributed between The Borough of Stratford-on-Avon and The Rural Districts of Stratford-on-Avon and Marston Sicca, whose joint population is 21,000.

HOSPITAL ACCOMODATION.

The Hospital of Stratford-on-Avon, (beds 31) receives many patients from adjacent Gloucestershire and Warwickshire parishes not in Stratford Rural District, and also about one third of the beds are taken up by patients from the Borough of Stratford-on-Avon. From those parts of the Stratford Rural District most remote from the Hospital some patients are sent to Leamington and Birmingham Hospitals: The Hospital at Stratford admitted 384 in-patients during the year 1919 whose average stay in Hospital was 24 days, which figures speak for themselves as to the constant pressure of work there.

Admission as inpatient, apart from emergency cases, is by Subscriber's ticket. During last year 27 patients paid for accomodation.

I do not think it out of place to insert in extenso, here a letter from the Secretary of the Hospital which admirably

defines the present condition of the Institution.

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON HOSPITAL,

SIR,

As the Herald has a wide circulation in the district in which resides a large proportion of the patients who avail themselves of the advantages of this Hospital, I feel sure I can rely upon your well-known zeal for the institution to permit me, through your columns, to endeavour to create an interest in the important decision which must soon be made.

I have been associated in the management and work of the Hospital for nearly forty years, and I unhesitatingly affirm that there never was a time in the history of our Hospital when it was so vital that the right steps should be taken by the management and it is clear that they can only act when they have the support of the public.

Allow me to recall to your readers a few of the outstanding facts. The present Hospital of thirty-two beds was built in 1884 largely by the generosity of Mr. and Miss Gibbins, and has benefited by many additional proofs of Mr. W. B. Gibbins' continued interest. The new block, installation of electric light, the large steriliser and other improvements of the Operating Theatre, and the first X-ray apparatus are some of his gifts. Since the Hospital was opened many valuable special departments have been added—ophthalmic, dental, X-ray, massage, high frequency and other electrical treatment. This is the only fully equipped general hospital within ten miles of Stratford-upon-Avon.

Medical and surgical science and treatment have made great strides since 1884, and persons of all ranks are more anxious to avail themselves of the advantages which only a well-equipped hospital affords. One is now-a-days not content to "enjoy bad health." We press forward for the elimination of troubles, and,

as a consequence, those thirty-two beds are now quite inadequate. It has become impossible to cope with the number of applicants. In the six months just ended 269 in-patients have been admitted, as compared with 201 in the corresponding period last year, and this notwithstanding that in 1918 there were sixteen more beds in the temporary building at the disposal of invalided soldiers.

Patients coming for operation, many most urgent, are largely on the increase. In the six months July to December there were 195 operations as compared with 122 in the same months in 1918. The occupation of all the beds makes it impossible to allocate any of the existing building for that important branch, massage and electrical treatment, and the temporary building is not suitable in the winter months. To some of our war-worn heroes this treatment is absolutely essential, and, in addition, there are many civilians from all ranks of society who gladly pay to avail themselves of our equipment. There are at present forty persons—twenty-seven pensioners—receiving treatment from this department.

The demand for shorter working hours on the part of both the nursing and domestic staffs necessitates increased numbers, and, therefore, more accommodation.

The management is forced to the conclusion that there must be more beds for patients, and, consequently, increased accommodation in kitchen, laundry, and bedroom blocks, and at the same time the various out-patient departments must be re-modelled on a larger scale.

This will involve a large outlay, as well as increased working expenses. Naturally the management will hesitate to draw upon the capital fund, and reduce the yearly income, unless there is some intimation from those who use the great advantages of this Hospital that an increased annual support will be forthcoming.

It is, therefore, that I desire to draw the attention of all

persons to the importance of this question, for, if we do not enlarge, such people will suffer, and if we enlarge without organised adequate support it will be impossible to keep the beds open. The day has gone by when we expect the "squire" or "the boss" to find everything for us. People have demanded a higher wage, and, therefore, must themselves find what they require.

I estimate that the total population of the districts which use the Hospital is about 30,000. If each person contributed 1d. per week (4s. 4d. per year) it would produce about £6,500 per year. The total income of the Hospital from all sources last year was only £3,521 12s. 4d., and of this £890 came from investments. If the beds are increased up to fifty we shall require about double the £3,500 per year to carry on the work on the same lines.

This money can easily be found if all those who use the Hospital organised a proper scheme. There are places where the workers find by far the greater part of the necessary yearly expenses. Surely it is a far more pleasant position for all to be able to feel that by a process of insurance each one has provided for himself or herself a fund from which special services can be paid rather than have to ask someone else for a Hospital ticket.

There are some such organisations here in connection with the railways and other firms. but this system could be extended amongst all classes, except the very poor. I appeal to representatives in the works, in the shops, the farms, the schools, the homes, and in all other places to give this subject their attention—indeed, their immediate attention, for the matter is very urgent.

If we are to meet the requirements we must build. If we build at all we must build on a large scale. Every department is too small, too crowded, and must be remodelled and

enlarged. The cost will be somewhere between £20,000 and £30,000 capital outlay. There are other points which I might deal with, but I fear I have already encroached too much on your space.—Yours faithfully,

R. LATIMER GREENE.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

WATER.—The following parishes have constant public water supply by mains, either from intercepted springs or upland surface water, Combroke, Henley-in-Arden and Beaudesert, Kington, and Ullenhall.

Alveston has an Artesian well bored into the lower Keuper sandstone, this furnishes a very pure water which is plumbosolvent, requiring iron piping for house-fittings. The other public water supplies of the district are hard in character.

I am acquainted with the areas from which these public supplies are obtained and consider that they yield good and wholesome water for domestic use, and that care is taken to prevent pollution of gathering ground.

It is true that at Henley-in-Arden there is cloudiness of water after heavy rainfall or snow, and that this could be obviated by filtration, but considering that filter beds not only entail cost of construction but cost of continual labour also, I do not advise their necessity.

Apart from these public water supplies and smaller public sources, as at Binton and Hampton Lucy, the district is supplied from shallow wells; these are constructed in the usual way of rural districts with pervious brick or stone casing, and it would much improve many of these if their lining was done in cement from one foot above the surface of surrounding soil to 5 — 10 feet downwards, and clay-puddled outside. This would ensure that any surface soakage near the well would have to percolate

a considerable depth before it could get excess to the well, and such percolation would help to purify it. It is not to be expected, of course, that such construction would prevent dangerous soakage from a deep midden or fold-yard. On some of the higher land in the district there are bands of blue and grey marls as a substratum with a layer of black shales above, and wells sunk in this yield water unpalatable and with an odour of sulphuretted hydrogen.

During the year Claverdon has had the offer of taking over, as a public water supply, an artesian well bored in the parish in recent years. If the offer is eventually accepted, care should be taken to note if this water takes up lead from lead-piping, for if so house-fittings for water must be in iron.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.—The provision of sewage-disposal works for all the larger centres of population in the district, except Alveston, has been completed in recent years. There is no gross pollution from Alveston, but it is a part of the district which, in this respect, is below the general standard.

SANITARY INSPECTORS OF DISTRICT.

Prior to my return to duty as M.O.H. in April 1919, the Deputy Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Greene, made a complete survey of the district in view of the requirements of the Housing Department of the Ministry of Health and the results obtained are detailed elsewhere in this Report under the heading of Housing: Since my return I have visited all proposed sites for new houses in company with members of your Housing Committee and consider these, without exception, to be well selected and adequate in number for present requirements.

SCHOOLS,—The School buildings in the district are structurally in good condition and fairly up to date for their purpose: most of them could be improved as regards ventilation. The

pry accommodation at Henley in Arden Council Schools is to be reconstructed. In some of the Schools I have visited, colour-washing of walls and renewal of paint and varnish work has become in arrears as might be expected in recent years. The following Schools were closed in the past year by reason of sickness among the children.

KINETON 23/5/19 to 21/6/19	...	...	Measles
SNITTERFIELD 23/5/19 to 21/6/19	...	...	Measles
ASHORNE 29/10/19 to 15/11/19	...	...	Whooping Cough
HENLEY-IN-ARDEN 2/12/19 to 31/12/19	...	...	Diphtheria
WELLESBOURNE 16/12/19 to 31/12/19	...	...	Scarlet Fever

I receive notice from Schools of children suffering from notifiable and non-notifiable infectious and contagious disease but not uniformly so: also when schools are closed such notification necessarily ceases. Occupants of dwellings where infectious disease has occurred are excluded from school attendance for periods varying with the nature of the complaint.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

MEASLES was widely spread throughout the year in the district, and 207 cases were reported; 23 notifications coming from parents. The Parishes affected were—

Kineton	...	45
Snitterfield	...	38
Henley-in-Arden	...	49
Whitchurch	...	19
Wellesbourne	...	13
Atherstone-on-Stour	...	8
Claverdon	...	4
Binton	...	5
Wootton Wawen	...	3

MEASLES (*continued*)—

Alveston	...	3
Wolverton	...	2
Bickmarsh	...	6
Langley	...	2
Charlecote	...	1
Ullenhall	...	2
Preston Bagot	...	2
Fulbroke	...	1
Luddington	...	1
Ettington	...	1
Milcote	...	1
Hampton Lucy	...	1



RURAL DISTRICT OF STRATFORD-ON-AVON (1919).

DISEASE.	At all Ages.	Under 1	1 - 5	5 - 15	15 - 25	25 - 65	65 and up-wards	Ashorne	Billesley	Claverdon	Ettington	Hampton Lucy	Henley-in-Arden	Kineton	Welles-bourne	Wootton Wawen	Preston Bagot	Wolverton	Alveston
Diphtheria	11		2	8		1			1				9			1			
Scarlet Fever	7		2	5							1		1	1	4				
Erysipelas	2					1	1			1		1							
Pneumonia	4			2	1	1				1			2				1		
Malaria	2					2				1							1		
Tuberculosis	10				3	7		1		1	1		2	3	1			1	

VITAL STATISTICS.

There were 165 Births in the year (males 78, females 87,) yielding a Birth-rate of 14.5 per 1000 inhabitants. Twenty years ago this rate averaged about 23 per 1000 inhabitants. There were 16 illegitimate births, i.e. nearly one in every ten.

The Death-rate among infants was 42.4 which is low. This rate 20 years ago averaged about 100. There were no deaths of illegitimate infants.

It is not easy to compute to what degree infantile mortality may be lowered, it was 89 per 1000 Births for England and Wales in 1919. There are two main factors to consider, 1st— with what vitality the infant is launched on life, and 2nd— what its prospects are as to parental care and its nourishment and environment. It is unlikely that physical fitness of parents has increased of recent years, at any rate the proportion of men found “physically unfit” for soldiering in recent years points the other way: but as regards parental care it is probable that smaller families means increase attention to such children as are in the family: There is less breast feeding of infants, to their disadvantage, but increasing knowledge of how young children should be fed. Their environment improves as sanitation advances. In our district “Health Visiting” is an invaluable adjunct to infant welfare; the fact alone of kindly interest in an infant from someone outside the household is of incalculable benefit often in the poorer houses of rural districts. It is sometimes said that to devote excessive care to the weaklings of the race is not scientifically advantageous, as tending to perpetuate a non-virile breed. This theory, however, has to be balanced against the facts that the weakling may often be brought to the normal standard by care, and that without care, he or she often struggles to maturity to transmit their physical defects, aggravated by neglect, to their offspring.

VITAL STATISTICS (*continued*)—

DEATH-RATE.—There were 138 deaths in the year, yielding a Death-rate of 12·6 per 1,000 inhabitants. The causes of death are given in the following table, and it will be noted there that the infective diseases of early life are markedly absent, apart from one death from Scarlet Fever; and that Influenza and Pneumonia are prominent.



STRATFORD-ON-AVON RURAL DISTRICT.

Causes of Death in the Year 1919.

CAUSES OF DEATH.		MALES.	FEMALES.
ALL CAUSES	..	59	79
Enteric Fever	..	..	..
Small-pox	..	..	..
Measles	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever	..	..	1
Whooping Cough	..	..	..
Diphtheria and Croup	..	..	..
Influenza	..	4	1
Erysipelas	..	..	..
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	..	3	3
Tuberculous Meningitis	..	..	1
Other Tuberculous Diseases	..	7	8
Cancer, malignant Disease	..	..	..
Rheumatic Fever	..	..	1
Meningitis	..	6	10
Organic Heart Disease	..	2	7
Bronchitis	..	6	4
Pneumonia (all forms)	..	3	2
Other Respiratory Diseases	..	1	..
Diarrhoea, &c. (under 2 years)	..	..	..
Appendicitis and Typhlitis	..	..	..
Cirrhosis of Liver	..	..	..
Alcoholism	..	..	..
Nephritis and Bright's Disease	..	4	4
Puerperal Fever	..	..	..
Parturition, apart from Puerperal Fever	..	..	..
Congenital Debility, &c.	..	2	2
Violence apart from Suicide	..	2	3
Suicide	..	..	..
Other Defined Diseases	..	19	32
Causes ill-defined or unknown	..	..	..
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of Age. Total	..	3	4
Illegitimate	..	..	..
Total Births	..	78	87
Legitimate	..	70	79
Illegitimate	..	8	8
Population for Birth Rate	..	11372	..
Population for Death Rate	..	10917	..

Stratford-on-Avon Rural District Council.

HOUSING SURVEY.

Essential Abstracts from Housing Survey forwarded
to Ministry of Health 31st October, 1919.

Section I—PREVAILING CONDITIONS AFFECTING SHORTAGE OF HOUSES.

1	Particulars of the staple Industries of the District	<i>Purely Agricultural.</i>
2	Particulars of any anticipated In- dustrial development	<i>None anticipated.</i>
3	Particulars of any considerable reduction which may be an- ticipated in the number of persons employed in any In- dustry in the District	<i>No variation likely to occur.</i>
4	Pre-War Population	11,079
5	Annual increase	<i>Slight decrease</i>
6	Estimated present Population	10,500
7	Anticipated increase or decrease of working class Population due to industrial changes	<i>None</i>
8	Number of dwelling houses in District ...	2,715
9	Number of working class houses of the the types given in reply to question 15...	1,891
10	Average number of working class houses built annually during the five years before the War	12
11	Number of working class houses built between Jan. 1st, /15, and Dec. 31st, /18	14
12	Number of empty buildings which might be — (a) made suitable by repair or alteration for housing the working classes or (b) converted into flats	<i>None</i>

HOUSING SURVEY, Section I (*Continued*)—

OVERCROWDING.

13	Tenements with more than two occupants per room; number of such tenements ...	31
	Total number of occupiers ...	242
14	Number of houses intended for one family only, which are now being occupied (without having been specially so arranged for) by two or more families ...	3

RENTS.

- 15 Particulars of Prevailing Rents of the various types of Working Class houses in the district.

TYPE OF HOUSE.	WEEKLY RENT.
(a) Houses with Living Room, Scullery, and 2 bedrooms	1/- to 3/9
(b) Living Room, Scullery, and three bedrooms ...	1/2 to 3/9
(c) Parlour, Living Room, Scullery, and two bedrooms	1/2 to 4/3
(d) Parlour, Living Room, and three bedrooms ...	2/- to 5/-
(e) Parlour, Living Room, and four bedrooms ...	4/- to 6/-
(f) Tenements in Block buildings ...	<i>None</i>
(g) Other working class dwellings (specifying) :— One Living Room, one bedroom or One Living Room, and one bedroom divided by wood partition	9d. to 1/6 The variation in rents is mainly due to the very low rents charged on large estates.

Section II.—ESTIMATE OF HOUSING NEEDS.

NO. OF HOUSES.

1	Working Class houses required during the next three years to	
(a)	Meet the unsatisfied demand for houses (taking account of growth of population, overcrowding &c. ...)	30
(b)	Re-house persons to be replaced by the clearance of unhealthy areas ...	<i>None</i>

HOUSING SURVEY, Section II. (*Continued*)—

(c)	Replace other dwellings which are unfit for human habitation and cannot be made fit	196	
(d)	Replace obstructive and other buildings (now inhabited) and not included under heading (c) which should be demolished	4	
(e)	Replace other houses which although they cannot at present be regarded as unfit for human habitation fall definitely below a reasonable standard	87	
(f)	Meet anticipated deficiencies e.g., arising from new industrial development	<i>None</i>	
Total			317
2	Deduct		
(a)	Working class houses which it is anticipated will be set free during the next three years as the result of any probable decrease in population	<i>None</i>	
(b)	Working class houses likely to be built during the next three years by persons other than the local authority	<i>uncertain probably</i> 6	
Total			6
Net estimate of houses required			311

Details of figures given in reply to question 2 (*b*).

	NAME	PARISH	NO. OF HOUSES
Public Utility Societies			<i>None</i>
Housing Trusts ...			<i>None</i>
Industrial Undertakings			
Or Business Firms ...			<i>None</i>
Private Persons... ..			<i>About 6</i>
Total			6

Section IV.—INSANITARY HOUSES (OTHER THAN HOUSES IN
UNHEALTHY AREAS OF WHICH PARTICULARS ARE
GIVEN IN Section III.

PREVAILING CONDITIONS

- | | | |
|-----|---|-----------------------------|
| (1) | How many inhabited houses are there in the district which are not and cannot be made fit for human habitation | 196 |
| (2) | The number of persons inhabiting these houses | ... .. |
| (3) | How many houses are already subject to | |
| | (a) Closing Orders? | <i>None</i> |
| | (b) Demolition Orders? | <i>None</i> |
| (4) | How many houses are seriously defective but can be made habitable | <i>Not estimated</i> |

PROPOSED ACTION

- (5) What immediate action is contemplated by the Local Authority with regard to
- (a) Houses which are not and cannot be made fit for human occupation?
- No action can be taken until other accomodation is provided.
- (b) Houses which are seriously defective but can be made habitable?
- The Council will deal with these as soon as labour and materials are available.
- (6) Within what time is it contemplated that conditions will be such as to warrant the demolition of the houses which are not and cannot be made fit
- From three to five years

Section VI.—SCHEME OF THE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL FOR
THE PROVISION OF NEW HOUSES UNDER SECTION 1
OF THE HOUSING, TOWN PLANNING, &C., 1919.

1	Approximate number of new houses to be provided	
(a)	Houses with Living Rooms, Scullery and two bedrooms	—
(b)	Living Room, Scullery, and three bedrooms	150
(c)	Parlour, Living Room, Scullery and two bedrooms	—
(d)	Parlour, Living Room, Scullery, and three bedrooms	20
(e)	Parlour, Living Room, Scullery, and four bedrooms	—
	Total number of houses and separate tenements	170
2	Approximate number of empty houses to be acquired and made suitable for housing the working classes	<i>None</i>
	Converted into flats for the working classes	<i>None</i>
3	Approximate acreage of land to be acquired	<i>About 23 acres</i>
4	Average number of houses per acre ...	8
5	Approximate localities in which land is to be acquired	21 parishes
	Alveston 10, Beaudesert 4, Bickmarch 9, Binton 8, Charlecote 6, Claverdon 6, Ettington 10, Fulbroke 2, Grafton 8, Hampton Lucy 16, Kineton 15, Langley 2, Loxley 8, Morton Morrell 4, Newbold Pacey 4, Old Stratford and Drayton 2, Snitterfield 16, Wellesbourne Mountford 10, Wellesbourne Hastings 10, Wolverton 4, Wootton Wawen 16	

HOUSING SURVEY, Section VI. (*Continued*)—

- 6 Time within which it is proposed that the scheme (or if the scheme is to be carried out by instalments each part of the scheme) is to be carried into effect.

Sites are being acquired and plans prepared and building operations will be commenced as soon as possible.

- 7 Particulars of any measure necessary, as part of the scheme, for the preservation of existing erections of Architectural, Historic, or Artistic interest, or for the preservation of the natural amenities of the locality.

There are few buildings of the class mentioned, the preservation of any that do exist may be safely left to local enterprise; several restorations of ancient buildings in the district have already been carried out.

- 8 Any other provisions (including provisions for joint action with any other Local Authority).

None.

- 9 Is it anticipated the Scheme may subsequently require to be amended? If so any relevant should be stated.

The provision of new houses will necessarily take a progressive form, the 170 proposed new houses being looked upon as a first instalment.

The above Scheme was adopted by the Rural District Council at a Meeting of the Council held on the 24th October, 1919.



NATIONAL HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING.

*Housing conditions in the Rural District of
Stratford-on-Avon, details of each Parish in
the District from survey 1919.*

ATHERSTONE-ON-STOUR.

Area of Parish ... 1089 Acres.

Population 1911 Census ... 83.

1d. Rate yields £2 16s. 9d.

No. of Cottages ... 16.

There are nine good Cottages and two fairly good. The last mentioned could be much improved by building a scullery and bedroom over, to each house.

The remaining Cottages are all very old and delapidated, three are now unoccupied and certainly not worth repair. Two old half-timbered and thatched opposite the Vicarage could possibly be patched up so as to be habitable until better ones are provided, but it is questionable if they would be found to be worth even a small outlay as they are very old and walls badly bulged.

More cottages are badly needed.

Note.

The owner of the estate having notified the Council that he will consider the question of erecting additional cottages The Council have decided to defer the matter for a time pending the owner's decision.

ALVESTON.

Area of Parish ... 2886 Acres.

Population 1911 Census ... 905.

1d. Rate yields £26 16s. 2d.

Total No. of Cottages ... 149.

Speaking generally the cottages in this parish are of a fairly good type although many have no back entrance or through ventilation, with a little structural alteration and general repairs most of them could be made fairly satisfactory.

There are five cottages which are not fit for occupation or worth repair, viz., two on Heath Farm, Banbury Road, these are single story, mud walls and thatched roofs, ceiling in bedrooms are very low, light and ventilation deficient.

Two others are situate on Alveston Pasture Farm, on a very damp and unhealthy site, and often flooded during the winter months, these are now void and absolutely unfit for human habitation.

There are some old half timber and thatch cottages in School Lane in a very bad state of repair, if thoroughly repaired could be made comfortable dwellings.

Two half timber and tile near the Exchange Inn are scarcely worth restoration, one has its ground floor below the road level, the other two cottages should be thrown into one and the basement used as a store.

Thirty-two cottages and twenty-nine houses of the villa type have been erected in the parish within a few years.

The Committee recommend the provision of twelve new cottages, viz. two at Alveston Hill and ten on a site in a field adjoining "The Oaks," at Tiddington.

BEARLEY.

Area of Parish ... 998 Acres.

Population 1911 Census ... 211.

1d. Rate yields £5 4s. 5d.

No. of Cottages ... 35.

The cottages in this parish are generally of a very poor class, sleeping accommodation is deficient and very few houses have back doors, or through ventilation.

One cottage is unfit for occupation and not capable of being made reasonably fit, it is a timber framed building, with tile roof situate in a garden on a block of property known as "The Yard," it is very low, timber very old and walls bulging. The interior is fairly comfortable and with some small repairs will allow of its being occupied until better houses are provided.

Extensive repairs and improvements are required to most of the cottages to bring them up to a fair standard.

The adoption of unsuitable sites, bad planning and jerry building are responsible for many defects and insanitary conditions.

No new houses have been erected in this parish for many years.

It has been decided not to erect any new cottages in this parish.

BEAUDESERT.

Area of Parish ... 1318 Acres.

Population 1911 Census ... 187.

1d. Rate yields £6 6s. 11d.

No. of Cottages ... 22.

There are some very poor cottages in this parish, but there are none that can be classed unfit for habitation.

The sleeping accomodation is very poor, being generally limited to two rooms.

Many repairs and improvements are needed to bring existing houses up to a fair standard.

Four new houses have been built in the parish during the past twenty years, two of these are of the cottage class.

The Housing Committee decided to recommend the erection of four new cottages on land near Bird in hand Inn.

BICKMARSH.

Area of Parish ... 1267 Acrrs.

Population 1911 Census ... 97.

1d. Rate yields £2 16s. 2d.

No. of Cottages ... 20.

In this parish we find six cottages which in our opinion are not in their present condition fit for occupation or worth repair, they are situate as follows.—

Three in China Square the ground floors of which are below the road level, the rooms small and ceilings low.

One cottage at “The Rough” is badly placed being practically within the stock-yard, the rooms small, ceilings low and walls very damp.

Two cottages known as “The Nook” are old stone structures with tiled roofs. These cottages are not particularly bad but stand on a bad damp site the surronnding soil on three sides being from two to six feet above the ground floor level of the cottages, there is no wholesome water supply and the approach road is bad.

Two cottages known as “The Welshmans” are in a very isolated position, and a long way from a main road, these are occupied now as one cottage.

Nine good new cottages have been erected in this parish during the past twenty-five years.

The Committee decided to recommend the provision of six new houses.

The three cottages in China Square to be re-modelled or re-built as two.

BILLESLEY.

Area of Parish ... 822 Areas.

Population 1911 Census ... 48.

1d. Rate yields £1 8s. 3d.

No. of Cottages ... 8.

In this parish we find no cottage that can be reasonably considered unfit.

There are in all 8 cottages, all of which are occupied. We are informed that some of the labourers employed in the parish have to walk from Wilmcote, while one man walks from Grafton, therefore it would appear that more cottages are required.

Five new houses have been erected during the past twenty years, four of which are of the cottage type.

The Housing Committee do not suggest the provision of any additional cottages at present.

BINTON.

Area of Parish ... 1300 Acres.

Population 1911 Census ... 245.

1d. Rate yields £3 15s. 8d.

No. of Cottages ... 45,

In this parish we find twelve cottages which in our opinion are in their present state unfit for human occupation, they are situate as follows, five in the Needle Yard, three in a garden adjoining Spring Bank, and four in a garden on the east side of the School House. None of these cottages are worth repair as

they are very old with the exception of three in the Needle Yard, which are converted workshops, and are very poor and inconvenient structures, the three adjoining Spring Bank are in the best condition having been well kept, these stand on a good site well suited for new cottages.

The Housing Committee recommend the provision of eight new cottages.

CHARLECOTE.

Area of Parish ... 2130 Acres.

Population 1911 Census ... 224.

1d. Rate yields £9 13s. 2d.

No. of Cottages ... 35

We find five cottages in this parish which are in our opinion unfit for human habitation in their present condition and would not pay the owner to either repair or reconstruct.

Most of the other cottages are fairly good structures but generally speaking badly planned and inconvenient, they can however be much improved, and where possible all cottages with only two bedrooms should have another one provided.

The unfit cottages referred to are as follows, two in Hunscombe Lane, one in Charlecote Village, two on Coppington Farm. The latter are good brick and tile structures but stand on a low damp site and practically inaccessible in bad weather.

At least three pairs of new houses are required.

The Housing Committee recommend that six new houses be provided.

COMBROKE.

Area of Parish ... 1145 Acres.

Population 1911 Census ... 152.

1d. Rate yields £2 16s. 11d.

No. of Cottages ... 45.

We find the cottages in this village are mostly stone

structures, with various forms of roofing, some thatch, some tiles, and the others slate, they have the advantage of being roomy and possesses a fair number of sleeping rooms, in some the ceilings are very low, but most have through ventilation, there are several excellent cottages, in fact as good as any in the District, there a few old ones in need of general repairs.

Having regard to the cost of labour and building materials there are none but what would pay for restoration.

There does not appear to be a need for additional houses, the number of existing Cottages should not be reduced, as although there are several voids at present, they will be taken up later on when the men now serving in the Army are demobilized, for whom they are being retained.

COMPTON VERNEY.

Area of Parish ... 1668 Acres.

Population 1911 Census ... 65.

1d. Rate yields £4 3s. 6d.

Number of Cottages ... 13.

There are no Cottages in the parish which can be considered unfit for occupation. They are mostly of a good type, with the exception of the Hillfield Cottages, which require some improvement. There is also need for an additional cottage here.

One new house has been erected in the parish within the past five years.

After due consideration the Committee decide to recommend one additional Cottage at Hillfield Farm.

CLAVERDON.

Area of Parish ... 2754 Acres.

Population 1911 Census ... 520.

1d. Rate yields £19 6s. 8d.

Number of Cottages ... 92 (inclhding Langley).

There are fourteen Cottages in this Parish which, in our

opinion, are unfit for occupation and not worth repair.

They are situate as follows :—

One Cottage in Church Road, owned and occupied by Mrs. Alliband, also in the same road a Cottage owned and occupied by Thomas Harrison, both these Cottages are very old and not worth consideration.

Two Cottages in Station Road, occupied by Gascoyne and Lane; these are very old thatched cottages, rooms small and ceilings low.

One old thatched Cottage on Lye Green; ceilings low and sleeping accommodation bad.

Four old thatched Cottages on Yarningale Common are beyond repair and should be demolished.

One old thatched Cottage at Barn Moor stands on a very bad site, the rooms are very small and badly lighted and ceilings low.

Four Cottages near the Post Office, on the Henley Road, are very poor, but with a little repair would suit old couples but are not suitable for housing young children.

In Langley there is one Cottage which is quite unfit for occupation while there are four others which can scarcely be made reasonably fit.

The Committee decided to recommend the erection of six Cottages in the Parish of Claverdon and two at Langley.

ETTINGTON.

Area of Parish ... 3638 Acres.

Population 1911 Census ... 570.

rd. Rate yields £11 6s. 5d.

Number of Cottages ... 98.

We find twenty-one Cottages in this Parish which, in our

opinion, are unfit for occupation and not worth repair.

They are as follows :—

One old thatched Cottage in the Square is fairly comfortable inside but it is not possible to convert it to a satisfactory dwelling.

Six old Cottages in the Square are of varied construction, three of them have been modernised by new brick fronts and slate roofs, but the rooms are small and ceilings low ; these Cottages are only fit to house aged couples.

Three at the back of the School are of a similar type and only fit to be occupied by old couples.

Four at the back of the Blacksmith's are very poor and have not sufficient land belonging to them to enable tenants to keep them in a sanitary condition.

Three old thatched Cottages on the main street are not worth repair ; these should be replaced with new ones, the site is a good one.

One old thatched Cottage on the same side is not worth repair.

Two near the White Horse Inn are old thatched Cottages ; rooms very small and ceilings low ; these should be replaced by new houses.

At the rear of the Inn are five very small Cottages, fronting south ; the rooms are very small and ceilings low, have no through vent and badly lighted ; the approach is through a narrow passage leading from the street ; these should be demolished.

Four new Cottages have been erected in this Parish and one rebuilt within the past twenty years.

The Committee recommend that five pairs of new Cottages be allotted to this Parish.

FULBROKE.

Area of Parish ... 872 Acres.

Population included in Hampton Lucy.

1d. Rate yields £2 12s. 1d.

No. of Cottages ... 9.

In this parish we found two cottages quite unfit for habitation, they are situate on the Court Farm, at Lower Fulbroke. They are brick and tile structures but badly built, they have no proper foundation, the ground floor is below the surface level of the surrounding soil and road, the walls are badly cracked and bulging, the ceilings low, light and ventilation deficient. The Cottages are also surrounded on two sides with large trees.

The site is not an ideal one, but if it is decided to adopt it for re-building, the Cottages should not occupy the same spot, the trees should be cut down and the floors levels kept well above the ground. The present occupier of the farm tells me he badly needs cottages for his workmen.

There are five other Cottages in the parish, all of which will require to be considerably improved to bring them up to a fair standard.

One new house has been erected in this parish on site of an old cottage.

The Committee recommend that one pair of Cottages be allotted to this parish, the selected site to be conveniently near to Lower Fulbroke.

GRAFTON.

Area of Parish ... 2,050 Acres.

Population 1911 Census 377.

1d. Rate yields £6 4s. 0d.

No. of Cottages ... 61.

We find eleven Cottages in this parish which in our opinion

are either unfit for habitation or would not pay for repair, they are situate as follows:—One on the Hillborough Manor Farm, two on the Manor Farm at Grafton, one owned and occupied by a retired carrier, one now void in the adjoining garden, one on the hill near the Church, four at the Malthouse.

With few exceptions the Cottages in this parish are of a very poor type, it is most difficult to decide the point as to which are fit and which are not. General repairs are urgently required in most of the existing Cottages.

One new house of the villa type and three Cottages have been erected during the past twenty years.

The Committee decided to allot four pairs of Cottages to this parish, viz.—one pair on land belonging to Colonel Tomkinson at Hilboro', and three pairs on land at Temple Grafton belonging to the Trustees of the late W. S. Gregg, Esq.

HAMPTON LUCY.

Area of Parish ... 3160 Acres.

Population 1911 Census 455 (including Fulbroke)

1d. Rate yields £12 17s. 2d.

No. of Cottages ... 75.

We find fourteen Cottages in this parish which are in our opinion unfit for human habitation and none of which would repay the owner for even small repairs, the rents paid are very low.

There are very few houses in this parish that can be classed as satisfactory or even approaching present day requirements.

We also notice that many of the outlying farms have no Cottages to them or any available within a reasonable distance.

The worst Cottages are as follows:—

12 in Snitterfield Lane, 2 on River Bank, 2 at Grovefield.

Three new Cottages have been^s erected within the past twenty years.

The Committee decided to allot sixteen new Cottages, viz. one pair at Hatton Rock on land belonging to Mr. H. C. Smith, Knowle and No. 287 on O. Map and seven pairs adjoining the Village on land belonging to Sir H. L. Fairfax Lucy, Bart., being No. 62 on O. Map.

KINETON.

Area of Parish ... 2495 Acres.

Population 1911 Census 1018.

1d. Rate yields £18 1s. 10d.

No. of Cottages ... 170.

We find there are twenty Cottages which in our opinion are not fit for habitation and for reasons hereafter stated should not be retained when houses of a better class are provided, they are situate as follows:—

Three old stone structures with thatched roofs in Southam Street which are owned by Mr. W. Wisdom. They have no back doors or through ventilation, no yard or convenience attached.

Two in Market Square owned by Darlow and now used as a Marine Store, should not be again occupied as dwellings.

Two old stone structures with thatched roofs belonging to Mr. Geo. Pollard, are not worth the necessary outlay to bring them up to a proper standard.

Two old houses at the corner of the Market Square, recently owned by Mrs. Woodfield, these should be rebuilt.

Three houses in Banbury Street owned by Mr. A. Rouse are very poor stone and brick structures with thatched roofs and have practically no land belonging to them, if restored and

reroofed they would be suitable for housing old age pensioners, but are not suited for families.

Five Cottages in Banbury Street, belonging to Mr. Raymond Smith, these are built upon sloping land from the street with a very steep gradient towards the brook. They are very poor structures, rooms small and ceilings low, and should be abolished when better houses are provided. One great drawback to these houses is the difficulty of scavenging them.

Also three old Cottages on the opposite side of the street.

There are many more Cottages of a very poor type, and it is questionable if they will pay for any extensive repairs.

The Housing Committee decided to recommend the provision of sixteen new houses as a first instalment.

LOXLEY.

Area of Parish ... 1596 Acres.

Population 1911 Census ... 239

1d. Rate yields £4 19s. 2d.

Number of Cottages ... 52

There are in this parish 10 Cottages which, in my opinion, are not fit for occupation or worth repair, they are situate as follows :—

One in Lane alongside the Vicarage, three on the hill leading to Village, two near Blacksmiths, two in field and now void, and two down opposite the pool. None of these are worth repair. The two near the Blacksmiths, which are single brick and slated, could be reconstructed, only that there is not sufficient land belonging to them to allow of this being properly done.

The whole of the Cottages in this village are of very poor type, badly planned and jerry built.

Very considerable repairs and improvements are necessary to bring them up to a fair standard.

One house and three cottages have been erected during the past twenty years.

The Committee decided to allot four pairs of new Cottages to this parish.

LUDDINGTON.

Area of Parish ... 1158 Acres.

Population 1191 Census ... 97.

1d. Rate yields £2 16s. 3d.

No. of Cottages ... 21.

We find no Cottages in this parish that can be considered unfit for habitation although there are many very old and have not in our opinion sufficient sleeping rooms. Speaking generally the cottages are in a fair state of repair, some few need attention, but considering there have been no repairs of any importance carried out during the past four years owing to the war, there is little to complain of, the re-thatching of roofs is now in progress.

We notice that very few have any fireplaces in the bedrooms. In cases of sickness this omission may lead to serious consequences.

No new buildings have been erected during the past twenty years.

The Housing Committee decided not to recommend any additional houses.

MILCOTE.

Area of Parish ... 609 Acres.

Population 1911 Census ... 55.

1d. Rate yields £4 13s. 0d.

No. of Cottages ... 10.

There are only ten cottages in this parish, none of which

are in our opinion unfit for habitation. All the cottages are of a fairly good type with one exception, viz., a cottage in the Farm Yard at Milcote Manor.

One new house and four new cottages have been erected in this parish during the past twenty years.

No new Cottages have been allotted to the parish.

MORETON MORRELL.

Area of Parish ... 1678 Acres.

Population 1911 Census ... 388.

1d. Rate yields £10 5s. 11d. -

No. of Cottages about 73.

There are a number of very poor cottages in this parish, and we are of opinion that at least fourteen are not worth repair and should be closed when better homes can be provided. The Cottages referred to are: an old Thatched Cottage in field at Morrell; there are two Cottages here, one has been recently repaired and will probably stand for some time longer, but the other which adjoins is certainly not worth repair, the floors level is much below the surrounding soil and is consequently damp, the walls are very old and rotten, and ceilings low.

There are three old Cottages near the brook which are very old and not worth repair, one is void, one is occupied by an old woman and her son, and the other by a man, wife and children; this Cottage is unfit for occupation as it is very damp, the floor being below the level of the soil at the rear and frequently flooded.

There are three old thatched Cottages near Moreton House which are quite unfit for occupation, also two timber-framed thatched Cottages, in garden opposite, are poor not worth repair.

Two half-timbered and thatched at the rear of the School

are very old, the walls badly bulged, and they occupy a very bad site. Also three old Cottages at Three Gates on the Foss Road ; these are very old, damp and defective, not worth repair.

A large number of new Cottages have been built in this parish within the last ten or twelve years, but it is difficult to decide what the future requirements of the parish are likely to be, as at present there are several of the new Cottages void. There are in all twenty-one new houses of the cottage type, in addition to a number of better-class houses, all built within the period mentioned.

The Committee decided to recommend the erection of four new houses in the village portion of the parish.

NEWBOLD PACEY.

Area of Parish ... 1851 Acres.

Population 1911 Census ... 373.

1d. Rate yields £9 18s. 8d.

Number of Cottages ... 58.

We find there are two Cottages in the parish very old and very poor structures which, in our opinion, should be closed when better houses are provided. They are situate as follows : one very poor old half-timbered and thatched Cottage in Newbold, occupied by an old woman and her son, at the time of our visit the son was carrying out some inside repairs and the roof was being rethatched. The interior we found scrupulously clean, and when the repairs are completed the Cottage will probably last the lifetime of the occupier who is also the owner. An old Cottage in a garden opposite the Inn is quite unfit for habitation and should be dealt with under a closing order (this is now void).

There are so few good Cottages or even fairly good ones existing that it is very difficult to decide as to which are in a condition which warrants repair and which are unfit, as with

few exceptions the Cottages are of a bad type.

The Committee decide to recommend four new Cottages to be erected in the village of Ashorne.

OLD STRATFORD AND DRAYTON.

Area of Parish ... 2779 Acres.

Population 1911 Census ... 129.

1d. Rate yields £7 5s. 10d.

Number of Cottages ... 23.

In this scattered parish there are only 23 cottages, three of these are not fit for human habitation, viz., two on the Canal Side and one at Cadle Pool.

Several Cottages have no satisfactory water supply. Most of the Cottages require extensive repairs and improvement.

It is reported that it is the intention of the present owner to convert two Cottages to a Farm House, if this is done it will further reduce the number available for labourers.

We are of opinion at least two pairs of new ones are required in this Parish. Two new Cottages have been erected in ten years.

The Committee suggest two new Cottages be erected near Incles Bush.

PRESTON BAGOT.

Area of Parish ... 1300 Acres.

Population 1911 Census ... 158.

1d. Rate yields £4 18s. 9d.

Number of Cottages ... 27.

There are two Cottages in this Parish which, in our opinion, is not fit for habitation or worth repair, they are situate as follows :—

One in Lane beyond the Church is a very small old thatched

cottage of a poor type, sleeping accommodation very poor; when the tenancy of the present occupant ceases this should not be again occupied.

The other referred to is a single brick slated Cottage, rooms small and very low, no through ventilation, and walls damp badly planned and jerry built.

There are several other cottages which require considerable repairs.

Four new Cottages have been built during the past fifteen years.

As there is a probability of owners building the Committee make no recommendation.

SNITTERFIELD.

Area of Parish ... 3912 Acres.

Population 1911 Census ... 682.

1d. Rate yields £16 1s. 7d,

Number of Cottages ... 144.

We find five Cottages in the parish which, in our opinion, are not fit for habitation, particulars of which are as follows :—

Five are situate in the Village at the top of the Green, only two of these are at present occupied, one by a woman and her adult son, the other by a man, his wife and three young children. The ground floors are below the road level and very damp, the rooms are very small, the ceilings low, there is no through ventilation, the walls are damp and the interior very dirty.

A Closing Order should issue as soon as the present tenants can be properly housed.

The site is not a suitable one for rebuilding and should not be considered. There is an excellent building site on land opposite.

Two others are timber-framed buildings with tiled roofs. They were originally three, but are now occupied as two cottages. The building is very old, timber badly decayed and roofs defective; these will not pay for repairs, and when other Cottages are provided a Closing Order should issue.

The other Cottage referred to is one of two situate at the farm buildings below Marroway Farm House, and which, owing to its close proximity to a stock yard, should not be occupied as a dwelling but may be made use of as a store.

There are many poor class Cottages in the Village, standing on sites of very limited area, the buildings are very small and only suitable for housing adults or old people. Four Cottages have been built within the last fifteen years and a number enlarged.

The Committee decided to recommend the provision of sixteen new Cottages.

WELLESBOURNE MOUNTFORD.

Area of Parish ... 1653 Acres.

Population 1911 Census ... 676.

1d. Rate yields £14 4s. od.

Number of Cottages ... 131.

We find there are seven Cottages which we consider unfit for habitation in their present condition, neither are they worth repair, they are situate as follows :—Four in Church Walk, three in Bennett's Ally. One Cottage in Chapel Street, occupied as a dwelling, also one adjoining used as a laundry.

There are several more which should be condemned when better houses are provided, while quite a number require extensive repairs.

The properties are very congested, it would appear to have been the chief aim of the builders to crowd as many houses as

possible on a limited area of land, consequently there are several obstructive buildings which will have to be taken down.

No Cottages have been built in recent years.

The Committee have allotted ten houses to this parish.

WELLESBOURNE HASTINGS.

Area of Parish ... 2953 Acres.

Population 1911 Census ... 682.

1d. Rate yields £15 17s. 0d.

Number of Cottages ... 99.

We find seven Cottages which we agree are, in their present condition, unfit for habitation and not worth repair. They are situate as follows:—Five in a group near the Infants' School, one at the rear of the Saddler's shop, one adjoining Mr. Charles' House, and one at the top of the Cherry Orchard, both the latter have been closed and are now void.

There is also a Cottage on the Glebe Farm which should be replaced by a better dwelling house. There are many Cottages when properly repaired and made more convenient will be fairly satisfactory.

There are also a number of single Cottages which are only suitable for adults without family or aged people.

Thirteen new Cottages and three houses of the better class have been erected in this parish within the past twenty years.

The Committee recommend the erection of ten new houses as a first instalment.

WHITCHURCH.

Area of Parish ... 1987 Acres.

Population 1911 Census ... 159.

1d. Rate yields £4 13s. 5d.

Number of Cottages ... 30.

In this parish there are some excellent Cottages, mostly

containing three bedrooms. There are also sixteen of the old type not including one used as a store.

We think the old cottages in Whimpstone are all capable of repair and could be made comfortable homes for adults or aged persons, but would not be suitable or sufficiently roomy for housing people with families. As in most other parishes general repairs are badly needed.

At Crimscote there are some very old Cottages which, in their present condition, are scarcely fit for habitation and certainly not worth repair (taking into consideration the present cost of labour and materials). They were originally five cottages but are now occupied as three.

A Farm at Bruton has no cottage within a reasonable distance which is fit for habitation.

After conferring with the representative of the parish we have decided that three pairs of Cottages are required, to be placed as follows:—One pair at Whimpstone, one pair at Crimscote, and one pair at Bruton.

The Committee, after due consideration, decided to communicate with the Agent to the Estate who replied that the Owner had under consideration the erection of Cottages, therefore any further action is deferred.

WOLVERTON.

Area of Parish ... 1160 Acres.

Population 1911 Census ... 160.

rd. Rate yields £4 4s. 4d.

Number of Cottages ... 48.

We find two old thatched Cottages which, in our opinion, are unfit for habitation and not worth repair, and in the event of a change of tenants should not be allowed to be re-let. One is situate on the east side of the School, near the boundary of

the parish and district, the walls are mud and the roof thatched, the only occupant is an old woman. The tenant was away and the cottage locked up, we therefore were unable to inspect the interior.

The other is situate on the east side of the School ; this is a timber-framed building with a thatched roof. This cottage is in better condition than the former, and the present tenant (an old man) need not be disturbed during his life-time.

All other Cottages in the parish are capable of being made fairly satisfactory, although six or seven need extensive repairs. There are at least sixteen good cottages in this parish.

Six new houses of the Cottage type and two villas have been erected within the last ten years.

The Committee recommend the provision of four new Cottages to be erected in the centre of the village.

WOOTTON WAWEN.

Area of Parish ... 7910 Acres.

Population 1911 Census ... 1959.

1d. Rate yields £47 18s. 6d.

Number of Cottages ... 290.

We find that in the parish there are twenty-seven Cottages which, in their present condition, are unfit for habitation and not worth repair, they are situate as follows :—

Two on Bearley Road, opposite Mr. Sweet's Farm. One is a brick structure, half roofed with thatch, the other half tile. The other mud walls and thatched roof.

An old thatched Cottage at the Osier Beds on Preston Road very damp and dilapidated, with a modern addition. The old portion should be removed and replaced by a good brick two-storey building.

An old Cottage on the road from Preston to Henley is a mud and brick structure with thatched roof, rooms very small and low, light and ventilation deficient.

One old brick and tile Cottage on the Wavensmere Road, which has been closed for some years, is again occupied ; this is quite unfit for habitation.

One old Cottage on the Ullenhall Road is in a state of dilapidation and should be demolished.

Three Cottages at Hungerhill are all unfit for occupation, only one can be considered repairable, and even this would not repay the outlay.

One old Cottage on Mr. Hanson's Farm is very roomy but in a dilapidated state and not worth the outlay which is necessary to make it habitable.

One old Cottage, formerly occupied by Keasey, is quite unfit for habitation and should be closed as soon as the occupants can be properly housed.

Two old Cottages known as the Hole-house stand on a bad damp site and therefore should not be retained.

Two old Cottages at Dean's Green are very old and dilapidated and nothing short of rebuilding can make them habitable.

Eighteen houses in High Street, Henley, particularised as follows :—

Nos. 15, 17, 19—Brick and Tile, now void.

„ 31 and 33—Rough-cast, tiled roofs, fronts badly bulged structure very old.

„ 51 and 53—Brick and tile, now void.

„ 12 and 14—Very old, sleeping accommodation bad, brick and tile structures.

„ 180—182—Common Lodging House and a cottage adjoining, very old brick and tile structures.

Nos. 292 and 294—Two old brick and tile Cottages, the rooms are very low and the sleeping accommodation very poor.

„ 272, 4, 6—Cottage in Littleworth, brick and tile structure, 2 sleeping rooms, no yard or convenience attached.

Eleven Cottages and 14 houses of a better class have been erected in this parish within the past twenty years.

The Housing Committee decided to recommend the erection of

In finishing this Report I would express the encouragement one has resuming Sanitary work, after some years of absence, to find that, in the stress of recent times, the subject of the Public Health was maintained in full vigour in the District, and it is a matter of congratulation, in view of present cost of engineering work, &c., to reflect that the many expensive necessary schemes for the district which were carried out in the past two or three decades were not deferred.

I am, .

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

ARTHUR THOMSON, M.B.

CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

It is convenient, in consideration of this, to discuss the three several districts for which I act as M.O.H., namely—The Borough of Stratford-upon-Avon. The Rural Districts of Stratford-on-Avon and of Marston Sicca.

These Districts, with a population of about 21,000, jointly maintain a modernly built Infectious Hospital with a capacity of 20 — 30 beds, which receives infectious cases other than Small-pox. In 1914 it was made considerable use of in a limited outbreak of cerebro-spinal meningitis, and since then for complicated cases of Influenza, and is particularly useful for the speedy isolation of any case of disease of doubtful nature pending precise diagnosis. The buildings are situated within half-a-mile of Stratford-on-Avon town, and thus the greatest distance from any contributory part of the Rural Districts is about nine miles. Patients are removed to Hospital by a horsed ambulance, which a nurse accompanies in all cases.

Practically no difficulty is met with in effecting the transfer of patients to Hospital, and it is exceptional for case of Scarlet Fever or Diphtheria not to be removed from home. There are three visiting days per week and facilities are offered by which visitors can view their friends through the windows. In the twenty-five years in which the Hospital has been in use it has practically never been empty of patients, and at long intervals the accommodation has been strained during epidemics of Scarlet Fever.

To occasional patients whose circumstances warrant a charge for maintenance being made, this is done.

The medical care of patients from the town of Stratford-upon-Avon is in the hands of their own doctor, or others come under my personal care as Medical Superintendent.

SMALL POX.—A corrugated iron building of eight beds capacity for the isolation of Small Pox, also jointly maintained, was erected over twenty years ago on a well isolated site about a mile from the town. It is fenced in by an unclimbable iron fence, and is well adapted for its purpose as being always perfectly dry and capable of being warmed and made fit for use in a few hours. It has not been required for the isolation of small-pox for a term of years, and at present is occupied by demobilised soldier and his family. This is an excellent use to put it to as the tenant is medically advised to live an open-air life to benefit his lungs.

DIPHTHERIA ANTI-TOXIN.—A constant supply of this is kept at the Joint (Infectious) Hospital, and issued gratis to any medical practitioner in the district. Practically every case of diphtheria in the contributory districts is treated with anti-toxin either before or after admission to hospital.

BACTERIOLOGICAL AIDS TO DIAGNOSIS.—Owing to the facilities afforded by the Pathological Department of Birmingham University, medical practitioners in the area of local districts can promptly obtain reports on submitted specimens of sputum, blood, etc., and apparatus for the collection and transmission of these is forwarded on application. With respect to 'swabs' from suspected diphtheria cases a considerable use is made of this provision and also where Enteric fever is presumptive. As regards Tuberculosis and Venereal disease more might be expected, unless bacteriological aid is sought elsewhere as well as Birmingham.

RETURN CASES OF SCARLET FEVER.—We are practically free from these.

"CARRIER" CASES OF DISEASE.—In the past year these have not been met with, apart from during an epidemic of diphtheria which began in Henley-in-Arden late in the year. In

this epidemic an extraordinary number of 'carriers' were discovered, and it was notable that if the attempts at discovering them had been limited to examination of 'swabs' alone from fauces from the throats, many cases would have been missed. A report on this epidemic has been made and does not come to be included in a report for 1919, as it continued on into 1920.

MEASLES VISITING.—In the accompanying reports the extent to which Measles was notified during 1919 is stated. In the course of the year a proposal to have a lady visitor for cases of measles in the Borough and Rural District of Stratford-on-Avon was not carried out. In these two districts there is not the same degree of carelessness over infantile complaints as is found in a crowded industrial centre, but at the same time much good can be done by Health Visitation when measles, whooping-cough, infantile diarrhoea, and like ailments are prevalent, and, in my opinion, the proposal, although expensive to carry out, was justifiable.



